

**Gorga, Joan (DPH)**

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**From:** Hopkins, Linda (DPH)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2010 4:58 PM  
**To:** Gorga, Joan (DPH)  
**Subject:** FW: request of Caritas to become environmentally responsible and efficient

*Does Caritas have an application in DoN? See below*

Linda M. Hopkins, Secretary  
 Public Health Council  
 617-753-8206  
 Linda.Hopkins@state.ma.us

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**From:** Gary Cohen [mailto:gcohen@igc.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2010 3:10 PM  
**To:** Hopkins, Linda (DPH)  
**Cc:** scahill@practicegreenhealth.org; plipke@ssne.org; Bill Ravanese; Anna Gilmore Hall; Paul Lipke; mwilson@hcfama.org; Gary Cohen  
**Subject:** RE: request of Caritas to become environmentally responsible and efficient

Dear Ms. Hopkins,

Health Care Without Harm has been leading the greening of healthcare in Boston, the nation and worldwide for over fifteen years.

We urge the MA Dept. of Public Health to ask Caritas' new owners and management to undertake actions to save money, improve patient outcomes, staff recruitment and wellness, and improve the facilities' overall environmental health performance. Achieving environmental performance in hospitals is becoming a mandate in implementing healthcare in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Hospitals have enormous environmental footprints. Their enormous fossil fuel use contributes to respiratory disease in the community while their reliance on toxic chemicals exposes both employees and patients to toxins linked to chronic disease. Additionally, hospitals generate large amounts of waste, including pharmaceutical waste, that ends up in our nation's waterways and contribute millions of tons per year into our landfills. Health Care Without Harm and our membership organization Practice Greenhealth have a strong track record in working with hospitals to measure their footprint and make needed improvements in their overall environmental and public health performance. We recommend the following for Caritas:

1. Join Practice Greenhealth ( [www.practicegreenhealth.org](http://www.practicegreenhealth.org)) as a system. There are over 1,000 hospitals that have joined this membership based organization that provides detailed support for greening design and operations of hospitals. It is not expensive (less than 20k a year) and will greatly benefit them as they upgrade and maintain their facilities.
2. Adopt the Green Guide for Health Care ([www.gghc.org](http://www.gghc.org)) as the framework for their design and operations. The GGHC is the bible of greening healthcare and the State of Massachusetts' DPH requires the use of the GGHC (or its national best practice equivalent) as a framework for new construction and renovation in Determination of Need applications. The GGHC is also the framework that Practice Greenhealth uses to help hospitals align their operations. Again, this will save the health system money, help patients and staff, and increase efficiencies on multiple fronts. This tool is free and being used by hospitals nationwide.
3. Participate in the EPA's Climate Showcase Communities grant, if awarded in Boston, with other

leading healthcare systems. A component of the project is for each system to develop strategic energy master plans, which create a strategic roadmap for the system to implement energy efficient technologies and systems and also plan for renewable and cleaner energy generation and purchases. Every system that has developed such a plan has found enormous cost savings potential in having such a plan and implementing it. Given the needs of the facility stock the new owners of Caritas are inheriting, integrating climate mitigation and adaptation strategies should be "a no brainer."

HCWH-Boston will be happy to consult with and support Caritas on all the above.

Respectfully,  
Gary Cohen  
HCWH Founder and President

7/29/2010